

From working with me to establish the foundation in my office to implementing my vision for district projects, Geoff has served as a sounding board for many of my creative projects, providing legal, practical, and political insight. Once we identified a path forward, he spearheaded many of my major district successes. He has maintained an expansive portfolio over the years, including speaking on my behalf at Chamber and community meetings, overseeing our monthly finances and assisting with personnel matters, helping coordinate constituent services and town halls, and addressing issues impacting residents of the Fifth District, such as the federal budget and appropriations, transportation and infrastructure, energy and the environment, among others.

Having been Mayor of Kansas City during devastating floods, one of my early priorities included protecting the lives and livelihoods of constituents living in flood-prone areas. Geoff worked quietly with the Army Corps of Engineers and stakeholders along Turkey Creek, Brush Creek, and the Blue River by attending stakeholder meetings and advocating for federal resources for these flood control efforts. He also worked with the City of Kansas City, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Justice on the City's ever-challenging Overflow Control Plan, by successfully pushing for the inclusion of green infrastructure and an extended implementation period. At the time, Kansas City was granted the longest implementation period of any municipality in the country, and more recently, we have been working to extend it even further to bring needed financial relief to our taxpayers.

Geoff led the staff in planning, developing and implementing a multi-pronged effort that included both public and private organizations and entities in order to maximize the use of 2008 Economic Stimulus Act and 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) resources in the District for the good of our entire community. This inclusive effort yielded grants, partnerships and alliances that brought needed resources and opportunities for job creation, economic development, public transportation, housing improvements, utility and infrastructure projects, health and social programs, as well as educational and veterans programs that will have enduring positive impacts on the recipients.

Perhaps the largest and most ambitious of those efforts included the Green Impact Zone (GIZMO). GIZMO consisted of 150 blocks in Kansas City's urban core where Geoff supervised our effort to bring various stakeholders, including neighborhoods, the Mid-America Regional Council, the City of Kansas City, State of Missouri, and dozens of corporations, nonprofits, developers, and other entities together to concentrate efforts in a targeted fashion to weatherize homes, install a smart electrical grid, demolish vacant properties, rehab abandoned buildings, and create job opportunities for residents in the area. We accomplished this by helping to bring over \$160 Million in ARRA and other federal funds to the area. The Green Impact Zone aimed at transforming an oft-ignored part of our community into one of the environmentally greenest pieces of urban geography in the world. GIZMO was regularly highlighted nationally as a model for regional collaboration in the sustainable community efforts.

Among the ARRA grants received for GIZMO included a \$50 Million TIGER grant, a

\$48 Million SmartGrid grant, and a \$20 Million EECBG grant. Geoff coordinated dozens of meetings with stakeholders and staff to help craft grants that would be impactful and then ensured strong fiscal management, accountability, and oversight during the implementation stages. The TIGER grant helped bring much-needed curbs and sidewalks to neighborhoods in the urban core, provided funding for a new Troost Bridge and pedestrian crossing at Brush Creek, improved streetscaping and corridor installations along transit routes, and more. Geoff's staff work and collaboration with Kansas City Power & Light aided in the development and federal funding of KCP&L's SmartGrid Innovation Park. SmartGrid put the Kansas City area in front of the line when it came to the energy efficiency revolution. The park features a 1 MW storage battery, a solar array, and educational kiosks to illustrate how power is delivered to the customers.

In 2012, Geoff also played an integral role in helping to bring ShotSpotter, a gunfire detection system, to our region. I had initially viewed the success of this program in Washington, DC and was determined to institute a pilot project in Kansas City. Geoff worked with the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and U.S. Department of Transportation to use existing federal funding to install ShotSpotter technology along the Troost BRT route. In its first couple years, it helped reduce gunfire by 26 percent in the areas where the technology was installed. The Kansas City Police Department continues to fund this technology today to support their proactive policing strategies and deployments, in their ongoing commitment to improve the safety, security and quality of life for our residents.

Over two decades ago, I fought for the revitalization of Liberty Memorial, an historic and majestic monument built nearly a century ago by Kansas Citians and dedicated to all our nation's veterans of World War I. It stands as a constant reminder of our veterans' sacrifice, but also as a tribute to peace and liberty. During my service in Congress, my respect and commitment for our veterans has remained a priority and Geoff has worked on numerous efforts to raise awareness of World War I. In 2006, he joined me at the opening of the WWI Museum, built below Liberty Memorial, and worked closely with me and our Washington staff to help get the entire site officially designated as the National WWI Museum and Memorial. Geoff has served as my representative to the Board of Trustees for the National WWI Museum and Memorial and became an integral part of Board, helping to secure legislation and funding from the State and serving on the Host Committee for their annual Night at the Tower.

For the past twelve years, Geoff led our staff as we worked with a bi-partisan, bi-cameral delegation, including Senators ROY BLUNT and CLAIRE MCCASKILL, along with my colleagues, Congressmen TED POE, DOUG LAMBORN, SAM GRAVES, and KEVIN YODER to create the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission. Geoff has served as my liaison at dozens of meetings and events alongside the Commission. As April 6, 2017 marked the Centennial of the United States' entry into World War I, Geoff was asked to serve on the WWI Commission's Management team to help coordinate our nation's official ceremony, a major international gathering in Kansas City to commemorate this historic moment. On that day,

thousands of people came to the National World War I Museum and Memorial to pay respect and to give honor to those who fought to keep our world safe. Geoff worked directly with the Centennial Commission to ensure the celebration would go off without a hitch. Over 250 foreign dignitaries were in attendance from nearly 30 countries. In addition to working with WWI Commissioners, Museum and Commission staff, event planners, dozens of representatives of federal, state, and local agencies, including those from the Defense Department, State Department, and National Archives, among others, he volunteered as the staff lead on committees, including the security and aviation committees. Geoff's service on the latter committee resulted in him being asked to officially welcome the French Air Force's premiere demonstration team, Patrouille de France, to Kansas City's Downtown Airport upon their arrival for the event. Even after such a successful event on April 6th, Geoff has continued to work diligently to promote additional funding, educational outreach and national programming for this worthy cause.

These are but a sampling of the many projects, events, and initiatives that Geoff has worked on during his tenure in my office. However, as my colleagues in this Chamber know, we are regularly pulled in many directions as we try to represent the nearly 750,000 constituents in our Districts. Oftentimes, it is our staff, serving behind the scenes, helping to ensure those constituents and stakeholders get prompt attention as they maneuver through the bureaucratic hurdles that regrettably get in the way. There is not a member of this esteemed body who wouldn't be proud to have Geoff Jolley on their team, and his service has certainly been a blessing for me. On a personal note, nine years ago, I had the pleasure of officiating the wedding of Geoff and his wife, Kimberly, and know him to be a loving husband and a devoted father of two beautiful young girls, Sophia and Maggie. I will miss the girls' cheerfulness, playfulness, and relentless energy, on display every time they stopped by the office or community events.

Mr. Speaker, Geoff is a loyal, caring, and compassionate individual whose selflessness, empathy, and unflappable personality will be sorely missed. As he transitions into other areas of public service, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing his lifetime of dedication to our community and country and wishing him continued success. The people of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, including me, are better off because of Geoffrey Jolley.

#### HONORING HOLLY GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable church, Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church organized in 1915 in Drew, Mississippi by a group of baptized believers in Christ. The church was erected on its present site on July 17, 1917, under the leadership of Rev. W. S. Stevenson and its Board of trustees: Brother H.

Y. Betts, Brother Grant Clark, and Brother Albert Brown; and Deaconess: Sister Margaret Wilkinson, Sister Hattie Williams-Cockrell, and Sister Eugene Brown.

Rev. A. L. Hill was elected pastor in the early 30s and remained until 1943 along with the Deacons: Brother Wesley Liddell, Brother Tom Sutton, Brother Nathaniel Fuller, Brother Joe Mixon, Brother Abel Hinton, Brother William Tyler, and Brother Miles Applewhite; and Deaconess: Sister Margaret Wilkinson, Sister Josephine Sutton, Sister Alberta Applewhite, Sister Estella Williams, Sister Ophelia Jennings, Sister Ida Long, and Sister Nancy Wilson.

Rev. T. W. Richardson was elected pastor in 1943 and in 1968 the church was reerected in 1969 after the death of Rev. Richardson. The board of Trustees were: Brother James Hunter, Brother LaHue Parker, and Brother Foster Green; and Deacons: Brother Arthur Phipps, Brother Otha Spraggs, Brother Foster Green, Brother J. S. Gresham Sr., Brother LaHue "Shock" Parker, Brother C.R. "Baby" Campbell, Brother Solon Williams, Brother Willie "Hot" Moore, Brother Coleman Washington Sr., and Brother Joe Moore; and Deaconess: Sister Estella Williams, Sister Alice Green, Sister Zenobia Campbell, Sister Mary Young, Sister Mary Lee Moore, Sister Minnie Ross, Sister Mary Singleton, and Sister Aretha Liddell.

Rev. W. L. Smith Jr. was elected pastor in July of 1969. Trustees were: Brother James Hunter, Brother LaHue Parker, Brother Foster Green, Brother J. C. Quinn, and Brother L. C. Quinn; Deacons: Brother Otha Spraggs, Brother LaHue Parker, Brother Solon Williams, Brother J. S. Gresham, Sr., Brother Bishop Hopkin, Brother Arthur Phipps, Brother Tommie White, Brother Bobby Love, Brother Coleman Washington Jr., and Brother Joe Moore; and Deaconess: Sister Estella Williams, Sister Alice Green, Sister Zenobia Campbell, Sister Estella Phipps, Sister Doshi Love, Sister Dossier Petty, Sister Candace Hill, Sister May Lee Moore, Sister Betty Quinn, Sister Sally Foote, Sister Mable Jackson, Sister Annie Foote, Sister Dorothy Banks, Sister Aretha Liddell, Sister Genette M. Smith, Sister Bobbie White, and Sister Charlene Love.

Rev. W. L. Smith Jr. retired and became Pastor Emeritus in September of 1992. Rev. C. J. Nelson served as Interim Pastor from December of 1992 through June of 1993. Board of Trustees were: Rev. Cleve McDowell, Sister Mary Phillips, Sister Jessie First, Sister Shery Nelson, Brother James Shoulders, and Brother Edward Triplett.

Rev. Adoris Turner was elected pastor in September of 1994 to November of 1997. Broad of Trustees were: Sister Mary Phillips, Sister Charlis Miller, Sister Sheryl Nelson, Brother James Pointer, Brother Coleman Washington, Jr., Brother Solon Williams, and Brother Booker T. Black, Jr.; and Deaconess: Sister Aretha Liddell, Sister Susie Staples, Sister Canary Pointer, Sister Dorothy Banks, Sister Charlene Love, and Sister Genette M. Smith. Rev. Jesse Gresham served as Interior Pastor from 1997 to 1998. Pastor Martha Shoulders served as his assistant.

Rev. Scotty Williams of Greenwood was elected as pastor in September of 1998 for a very brief period. No significant changes were made to the church under his leadership. Rev. Perry Grant of Greenville was elected as the pastor in 1999, where he remained for less than a year.

Rev. Jesse Gresham was elected as pastor in February of 2000, where he serves as Pastor and Musician. Rev. Martha Shoulders served as Youth Pastor. Two new musicians were elected: Charlie "Chuck" Allen of Clarksdale and Everette Walton of Drew; a fellowship hall was added; the Youth Ministry was assigned the second Sunday of each month; the Men's Ministry was assigned the fourth Sunday of each month; and two members were called into the ministry: Deacon Bobby Love and Brother Robert Hunter. Rev. Bobby Love now serves as superintendent of Education and Rev. Robert Hunter now serves as Youth Minister. The Deacons were: Brother James Pointer, Brother Coleman Washington, Jr., Brother John Johnson, Sr., Brother Melvin Mins, Brother Howard Williams, Brother Lacy Wilson, Brother Booker Black, Brother James Dixon, and Brother Willie Hooper; the Trustees were: Sister Annie Round, Rev. Bobby Love, Brother James Shoulders, Sister Mary Phillips and Brother Edward Triplett; and the Deaconess Board consisted of: Sister Aretha Liddell, Sister Dorothy Williams, Sister Minnie Spraggs, Sister Sisce Staples, Sister Ora Washington, Sister Dorothy Banks, Sister Bobbie White, Sister Charlene Love, Sister Essie Johnson, Sister Earnestine Dixon, Sister Gloria Williams, and Sister Sharon Hunter.

Rev. Gresham served for fourteen years. In 2014 Rev. Bobby Love was elected Interim Pastor until October 2015. Then, Rev. William "Ray" Blackmon was elected as pastor in November of 2015. Pastor Blackmon's installation was on February 14, 2016. Under his short tenure two musicians were added: Brother Seneca Owens, who played on the first, third, and fourth Sundays and Bishop Kimberly Randle, who played on the second and fifth Sundays and during this same time two tellurones and a surveillance system were installed. Rev. Bobby Love serves as Director of Christian Education and Rev. Robert Hunter serves as the Youth Minister. Deacons James Pointer is the chairperson of the Deacon Board and Deacon Howard Williams is the co-chairperson. The other Deacons are: Deacon Roy Stanford, Deacon James Dixon, Deacon Willie Hooper (who resigned in May of 2017) and Deacon Booker Black, Jr. There are two deacons in training: Brother John Henry Johnson, Jr. and Brother Eddie Horton. The trustees are: Sister Charlis Miller-Criss, Sister Bobbie White, Sister Sheryl Nelson, Sister Karen Mims, and Deacon Roy Stanford.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the growth of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church for its longevity and dedication to serving others.

#### HONORING MR. JAMES T. BRETT

#### HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James T. Brett, President and CEO of the New England Council, on receiving the Éire Society of Boston's 2018 Gold Medal Award.

Since 1937, the Éire Society of Boston has celebrated the rich history of the Irish experience and the many important contributions that Irish-Americans have made to our country

and around the world. In keeping with tradition and the long list of distinguished recipients, the Éire Society has chosen to honor a truly inspiring individual this year.

A lifelong resident of Dorchester, Massachusetts, James "Jim" Brett has dedicated his life to serving others and raising awareness for critical issues such as accessible healthcare, education, economic empowerment, and disability rights. After fifteen years in the Massachusetts State Legislature taking on a number of leadership roles such as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation and Joint Committee on Banking, Mr. Brett joined The New England Council where he has continued to promote a strong economic environment and quality of living in the region.

Since leaving office in 1996, Mr. Brett remains a leading voice in advocacy for individuals with disabilities both in New England and nationally, serving as a Chairman of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, a member of the National Council on Disability, and Chair of the Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability and Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

Across Massachusetts, we are proud to call James Brett our neighbor and grateful for his continued service to the disadvantaged among us. As the Éire Society of Boston gathers on April 7th to celebrate this important achievement, I call on Congress to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Brett's distinguished career and the impact that his tireless efforts have had on so many in New England and nationwide.

#### HONORING DEXTER M. BROOKINS

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, LTC Dexter M. Brookins who entered the service on 11 August 1987 as a Private in the Infantry. LTC Brookins received his commission from the United States Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1997 from Jackson State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

Previous assignments include Launcher and Fire Control Platoon Leader for F/1-43 ADA in Kunson, S. Korea from July 1997 to June 1998 and Battery Executive Officer for B/1-43 ADA in Suwon, S. Korea from June 1998 to November 1998, and D/2-1 ADA from November 1998 to July 1999. Major Brookins also served as the Aide-de-Camp for the Commanding General (1-Star General) at Joint Task Force-6 from July 1999 to January 2001. In August 2001, he was assigned to the 31st ADA BDE from which he later deployed to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from February 2002 to September 2002. He later assumed command of A/3-2 ADA in December 2002. He later deployed Alpha Battery to Kuwait/Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from March to May 2003.

In April 2004, LTC Brookins was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Army Staff (JCS/OSD/ARSTAFF) Intern Program (a three year program). As a JCS/OSD/ARSTAFF Intern, LTC